Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00

FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /133 W

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R 221706Z JAN 76 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7716 INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EC

SUBJECT: GATT PANELS ON D.I.S.C. AND RELATED TAX PRACTICES

REF: STATE 8361

- 1. MISSION TRANSMITTED US PROPOSED PROCEDURES FOR SUBJECT PANELS TO EC (LUYTEN) JAN 16 ALONG WITH RATIONALE PARA 4 REFTEL. LUYTEN'S INITIAL REACTION VERY NEGATIVE; HE CONTENDED THAT IT HIGHLY UNUSUAL FOR PARTIES TO ATTEMPT WORK OUT PROCEDURES FOR PANEL IN ADVANCE SINCE ONLY PANEL CAN DETERMINE ITS PROCEDURES. HE SAID US WAS BEING OVERLY LEGALISTIC AND WE SHOULD AVOID TYPING UP PANEL IN PROCEDURAL WRANGLE WHICH WOULD ONLY DELAY MATTERS. LUYTEN STRESSED HOEVER THAT FOREGOING ONLY HIS PERSONAL VIEWS AND FORMAL REPLY WOULD COME AFTER HE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH BRUSSELS.
- 2. MEMBERS OF GATT SECRETARIAT WITH WHOM WE TALKED ALSO STRESSED THAT PANNELS ENTIRELY FREE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN PROCEDURES AND USUSALLY OPERATE IN VERY INFORMAL MANLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NER. HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR PARTIES

TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY IN ADVANCE WITH CHAIRMAN PROCEDURES IF CHAIRMAN IS WILLING. IT ENTIRELY AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION HOW MUCH WEIGHT TO GIVE TO PARTIES' VIEWS IN FORMULATING PROCEDURES WITH PANEL MEMBERS.

3. FOR TIME BEING WE SHOULD AWAIT EC REPLY TO OUR PROPOSED PROCEDURES. IF EC REATION IS NEGATIVE AS WE EXPECT IT WILL BE, SUGGEST THAT WE SEEK AGREE-MENT TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES INFORMALLY WITH CHAIRMAN. AT THAT TIME E CAN AT LEAST EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY TO CHAIRMAN THOSE PROCEDURES THAT WE MOST WANT TO SEE FOLLOWED. IN PREPARATION FOR SUCH A MEETING WASHINGTON MAY WANT TO IDENTIFY AND PROVIDE RATIONALE FOR THOSE FEW PROCEDURAL MATTERS THAT ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO US.

4. GATT SECRETARIAT STILL TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MARIADASON TO ASK IF HE CAN SERVE AS CHAIRMAN. MARIADASON REPORTEDLY ENROUTE TO GP-77 MEETING IN MANILA. DALE

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